

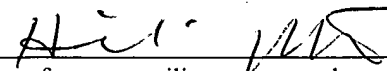


PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Rahme et al.	Art Unit:	1645
Serial No.:	10/660,811	Examiner:	To Be Assigned
Filed:	September 12, 2003	Customer No.:	21559
Title:	VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACIDS AND PROTEINS AND USES THEREOF		

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-captioned patent application, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.